

**REMARKS**

Reconsideration is requested for claims 1-21.

The undersigned wishes to thank Examiner Pianalto for his time, attention, and consideration during the interview that was conducted at the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office in connection with this application on September 3, 2003.

Claims 1-21 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,040,018 to *Lamers* in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,127,034 to *Chorley*. During the interview, it was agreed that claims substantially as set out above are distinguishable over the prior art. Because the applicant submits that a "coating" blade is a more commonly used, generic term in the art than a "doctoring" blade, the claims have been amended to recite a "coating" blade rather than being amended to recite "doctoring" blade as discussed at the interview, it being understood that coating blades include doctoring blades.

The claims have also been amended to recite that the band is "metal". Support for this language is found in the application as originally filed at, e.g., Page 4, line 34.

If the Examiner should be of the opinion that a telephone conference would be helpful in resolving any outstanding issues, the Examiner is urged to contact the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date:

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